

400-tonne 'timebomb' floats at sea

LONDON (R) — French and British warships gathered round a drifting freighter carrying a cargo of high explosives on Tuesday after its crew abandoned ship in mid-channel following a fire, coastguards said. The 1,000-tonne Danish coaster Homestrand and its 400-tonne cargo of seismic gelignite explosives, used in mining operations, is being viewed by the authorities as a floating time bomb as it drifts in one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. Coastguards said authorities were considering whether to take the ship in tow, blow it up, or, in the words of one coastguard officer, "use it as target practice." Ships and aircraft have been warned to stay clear of a nine-mile zone around the ship, drifting about 30 miles off the southern England channel harbour of Portland. The five-man crew took to the ship's lifeboat after fire broke out aboard the Homestrand early Tuesday. They were picked up by a French navy helicopter and transferred to Cherbourg. Coastguards said the British frigate Beaver had approached the Homestrand and reported that there was now no sign of fire.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation

Sharaa meets senior Soviet officials

DAMASCUS (AP) — Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa conferred on Tuesday with two senior Soviet officials in the first high-level contact between the two countries since Syrian forces moved into west Beirut 10 days ago. The Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said Mr. Sharaa met with the Soviet officials — Mikhail Sytenco, a roving ambassador, and Denisa Tarasov, deputy director of the Soviet Foreign Ministry. They discussed "international developments and the current situation in the Middle East," said the agency. It gave no other details. The meeting at Mr. Sharaa's office also was attended by Soviet Charge d'Affaires Alexander Azarenko. The Soviet ambassador in Syria, Alexander Dzakov, is currently in Moscow for consultations. Mr. Sytenco and Mr. Tarasov arrived on Monday in Syria. Their trip coincides with revised moves to convene an international conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices.

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Assad receives French message

DAMASCUS (R) — A message from French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac dealing with events in Lebanon among other matters, was delivered on Tuesday to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, the Syrian news agency (SANA) reported. Two Frenchmen are among 27 foreigners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon. Syria played a major role last November in helping to secure the release of two other French hostages held there.

Egyptian court rejects Numeiri case

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian court ruled on Tuesday that the issue of whether ousted Sudanese President Jaafer Numeiri should continue to have political asylum in Egypt was beyond its jurisdiction. Legal sources said the decision of the Cairo administrative court after eight months of hearings could still be challenged in higher court. The case was brought by the Sudanese bar association which said Mr. Numeiri did not qualify for political asylum as he was wanted in Sudan to stand trial on charges of treason, abuse of power and corruption.

Danny Kaye dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Danny Kaye, the rubber-faced red-haired clown who worked his way up from busboy to Broadway, television and the movies and was known as the "ambassador to the world's children," died early Tuesday at 74. Kaye was hospitalized Sunday and died at 3:58 a.m. (11:58 GMT) of heart failure.

Casey leaves hospital

WASHINGTON (R) — Former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Casey, who had brain surgery in December, was released from Georgetown University hospital last Saturday, a hospital spokesman said. He said the hospital had no comment on Mr. Casey's condition.

Sweden probing its own 'Irangate'

STOCKHOLM (R) — Swedish authorities said Tuesday they were investigating the role of past governments in an illegal ammunition shipment to Iran and an arms smuggling scandal involving Sweden's biggest arm producer. The ammunition shipments affair was highlighted this week by a U.S. newspaper columnist who said the assassination of Prime Minister Olof Palme was linked to his attempts at mediation in the Iran-Iraq war. Assertions by journalist Richard Reeves in Sunday's New York Times magazine, although denied by the present Swedish government, has fuelled speculation in Swedish newspapers that Mr. Palme's unsolved murder may be connected to the Swedish "Iran-gate" saga.

U.S. to offer treaty on INF

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan said the United States would offer a draft treaty on medium-range missile reductions at talks with the Soviet Union in Geneva today. Mr. Reagan also said in a brief televised appearance in the White House briefing room that he was summoning Ambassador Max Kampelman and the other top U.S. arms negotiators home for consultations later this week. He said they would then return to Geneva for detailed negotiations on the arms pact.

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Rifai: EC support for int'l conference is Arab victory

King has turned down U.S. invitation and is now awaiting American deeds to show goodwill and seriousness

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has described the European Community's (EC) endorsement of the idea of convening an international conference on the Middle East as a victory for Arab diplomacy.

In an interview with the London-based Arabic-language magazine Al Sharq Al Awsat, Mr. Rifai said it had been a tough task to convince the Western countries of the soundness of the idea of an international peace conference on the Middle East as called for by His Majesty King Hussein and supported by resolutions adopted by the Fez Arab summit of 1982 and the Islamic and non-aligned blocs of states.

Referring to Israel's rejection of the conference idea, Mr. Rifai said the Jewish state expected that the outcome of the conference would force it to withdraw from the occupied territories and that was the reason for its insistence on direct talks.

In the wide-ranging interview, published in the latest issue of Al Sharq Al Awsat, Mr. Rifai said: "The U.S. has lost a great deal in the Middle East as a result of its arms sales to Iran. Washington is now trying to regain its credibility and has invited the King to visit the U.S. but the King has declined to accept the invitation.

Geagea: Final Lebanon accord is distant

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The commander of Lebanon's biggest rightist militia said Tuesday a truce accord was the most he would consider in Syrian-sponsored talks on reforms aimed at ending 12 years of civil war.

"I don't think it is time for a final political accord," Lebanese Forces commander Samir Geagea told reporters. "We can't see a long-term political agreement with thousands of foreign troops (in Lebanon)."

Syria moved 7,000 troops into west Beirut last month and has maintained about 25,000 soldiers in north and east Lebanon. Up to 3,000 Israeli troops occupy a strip in the south of the country.

Dr. Geagea said he was coordinating closely with President Amin Gemayel on an approach to a Syrian-backed peace plan agreed by Lebanese Muslim leaders this weekend. He said he had not yet seen the plan.

"They (the Muslims) are telling us we have agreed among ourselves, take the agreement." It is inconceivable," he said.

Berri renews exchange offer

BEIRUT (AP) — Justice Minister Nabil Berri on Tuesday renewed an offer to swap an Israeli airman held captive by his Sunnite Amal militia for Arab prisoners in Israeli jails plus three Americans and one Indian kidnapped by extremists.

"We are prepared for the swap through the International Committee of the Red Cross as soon as the four captives are released," Mr. Berri told a news conference at his residence in west Beirut.

The four educators were kidnapped from the campus of Beirut University College Jan. 24. They are Robert Polhill, Alain Steen, Jesse Turner and Mithileshwar Singh, a native of India and legal resident alien of the United States.

An underground group calling itself Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine offered to swap the four educators for 400 Arab prisoners held in Israel.

Israel has refused to negotiate the swap and the kidnappers withdrew the offer after extending a deadline to kill the four teachers (See page 2).

tention of arriving at a joint Arab stand that can handle all Arab issues at all levels."

The prime minister said Jordan believed in solidarity among all Arab states and could not see any justification for disputes among them. The Kingdom bases its policies and actions on the assumption that any dispute among Arab states should not reflect on joint Arab stands and cooperation, he said. Based on this belief, the prime minister said, His Majesty has been relentlessly working towards ending Arab differences and bringing Arab heads of state together.

— Jordan has a long list of requests to be given to the U.S. before any serious thought will be given to resuming high-level contacts with Washington," Mr. Rifai said. We are now waiting for Washington to take some actions before such contacts can be resumed.

— Jordan has decided not to request any arms from the U.S. after Congress turned down earlier requests. "We have started to diversify (sources for arms)," the prime minister said.

— Consultations are under way among Arab states in an effort to arrive at a common ground for all Arab states to attend and make a success of an Arab summit. But, Mr. Rifai added, "such a meeting is not an objective by itself. It should be convened with the in-

A presidential spokesman said Mr. Gemayel was due to receive soon a blueprint of the political reforms demanded by the nation's Muslim leaders.

The proposals, reached over the weekend in Damascus, were passed on Monday to Mr. Gemayel's Sunni Muslim emissary Hami Salam during a two-hour meeting with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

Mr. Salam will "hand over the proposals to the president upon his return to Lebanon, which is expected in 48 hours," said the spokesman.

He said the truce accord he envisaged would leave militia forces in place and would set up a new government to replace the present paralysed cabinet.

The cabinet has not met since January 1986. Muslim ministers boycotted it after stiff Christian opposition blocked a previous Syrian-backed peace accord signed by representatives of Lebanon's three main militias in Dec. 1985.

Geneva talks on Euromissile elimination hit first snag

GENEVA (Agencies) — The new U.S.-Soviet effort to eliminate medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe hit its first snag on Tuesday when superpower negotiators haggled over how to extend their present round of arms control talks.

Spokesmen for both sides agreed on Monday that negotiations on medium-range missiles would extend their talks beyond Wednesday, when the present round of arms negotiations here was due to end.

Two other groups are negotiating separately on long-range missiles and space weapons. The arms talks were originally due to restart on April 23.

But on Tuesday a dispute broke out over what was agreed, with the Soviets saying all three groups must continue their work. American negotiators insisted that only the group discussing medium-range missiles should remain in Geneva.

Chief Soviet negotiator Yuli Vorontsov and Chief American negotiator Max Kampelman disappeared for a tête-à-tête discussion over lunch in a secluded restaurant in an effort to resolve the dispute, spokesmen for both sides said.

Soviet negotiators have presented the general outline of a new initiative to eliminate all

medium-range missiles in Europe but wanted to extend the talks to spell out the details.

American negotiators said they wanted to use an extension to make a counter-offer on medium-range weapons in the form of a proposed draft treaty on "Euromissiles."

Western diplomats following the talks said the first real opening for a superpower arms accord came on Saturday when Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev shifted the Kremlin stand on medium-range "Euromissiles."

The Pravda newspaper reported Tuesday that Mr. Gorbachev said a superpower agreement on medium-range missiles would be a "tremendous" step towards other accords on arms control and regional conflicts.

Mr. Gorbachev made his comments during a meeting with Icelandic Prime Minister Steingrímur Hermannsson.

At a news conference after the meeting, Mr. Hermannsson said Mr. Gorbachev considers the Kremlin's proposal to ban medium-range missiles in Europe a move needed to break the deadlock in arms control talks.

"I understand... (Mr. Gorbachev) to say that this had been decided in order to take the first step," Mr. Hermannsson said.

have turned down the offer as they did all other offers of peace and are continuing their war and causing more destruction."

Mr. Rifai said the King was of the view that all Arab, Islamic and international efforts be pooled together to convince Iran not to pursue the fruitless war and if such an endeavour failed to achieve success in ending the war, other efforts should be exerted to prevent Iran from launching more acts of aggression against Iraq.

On the situation in Lebanon, Mr. Rifai said it was the duty of all Arabs to contribute to the return of the war-torn country as an independent state. The prime minister noted that last week's deployment of a Syrian force in west Beirut was in response to requests from local leaders and warring militias.

"Lebanon," said Mr. Rifai, "is in need of an external force to restore peace to the country and pave the way for a national formula for reconciliation."

King Hussein, who met with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel in Jordan and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus last month, discussed such a formula and the Syrian and Lebanese presidents are expected to meet soon, Mr. Rifai added.

Iraqis expect Iran to launch fresh offensive

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — An Iraqi general said Tuesday Iran was expected to launch a fresh ground assault across the southern warfront soon in an attempt to avenge heavy losses suffered in an earlier offensive.

"We expect the enemy to repeat its aggression attempt... to take revenge for the thousands of troops it lost over the past few weeks," Lieutenant-General Dhiahu'ddin Jamal, the Third Army Corps commander, said.

He was speaking to reporters at his headquarters at the southern city of Basra, the target of the seven-week-long Iranian thrust which Iran declared over last week.

Abdul Jabbar Muhsen, head of Iraq's Defense Ministry, said last Friday Iran had sustained about 200,000 casualties in that offensive, leaving only 40,000 to 50,000 of its men still in the area.

In Kuwait, the secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), voicing concern at the latest flare-up in the Iran-Iraq war, on Tuesday urged a moratorium on arms sales to Iran.

Both sides have reported fierce fighting on the southern front since Iran announced last Thursday that its last offensive was over.

In Kuwait, the secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), voicing concern at the latest flare-up in the Iran-Iraq war, on Tuesday urged a moratorium on arms sales to Iran.

In withdrawing Mr. Gates' name, Mr. Reagan bowed to Senate pressure and Mr. Gates' own fears, expressed in a letter to the president, that a prolonged period of uncertainty over his confirmation by the Senate would harm the CIA.

Mr. Gates' nomination to succeed ailing former CIA chief William Casey had run into trouble because of the CIA's role in the Iran-contra scandal at a time when he told investigators he did not remember when he approved arms sales to Iran.

However, 62 per cent said they believed Mr. Reagan would make sure that the White House staff was brought under tighter control as a result of last week's report by a commission headed by former Texas Senator John Tower.

Mr. Reagan had a meeting on Tuesday with his National Security Adviser Frank Carlucci.

Fitzwater said Mr. Reagan was also to go to the office building adjoining the White House to meet the staff of the National Security Council. It was there that the Iran-contra policies were hatched.

The spokesman refused to comment on the names being mentioned as a possible new CIA chief. But he said he would guide reporters away from the speculation involving former National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, a member of the Tower panel.

Prime Minister continues Vienna talks

VIENNA (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai met here on Tuesday with Austria's Foreign Minister Alois Mock with whom he discussed Jordanian-Austrian relations as reviewed developments in the Middle East, the King and Queen Noor are on a private visit to Austria.

Mr. Rifai and Mr. Qasem arrived here on Monday to join His Majesty King Hussein in talks with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim and also to accompany the King on a visit to West Germany due to start on Thursday. Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor are on a private visit to Austria.

Mr. Rifai and Mr. Vranitsky agreed to continue their talks in Amman soon to discuss bilateral cooperation in trade and agriculture.

The meeting was attended by Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitsky with whom he reviewed bilateral relations and world issues.

Mr. Rifai explained Jordan's policies and its continuous efforts

Israelis impose curfew on Balata, Askar amid continuing protests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Protest erupted in two areas of the Israeli-occupied West Bank on Tuesday after Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian student in the city of Nablus on Monday, an army spokesman said.

He said the army imposed a curfew on the Balata refugee camp outside Nablus after residents set up barricades and threw rocks at Israeli soldiers earlier on Tuesday.

In Ramallah, protests were reported at a women's teacher training college. The spokesman said students burned tyres and set up roadblocks.

Soldiers on Monday shot dead a Palestinian student and wounded another who the army claimed had run away after they were ordered to stop for an identity check.

The incident came after the Israeli authorities banned a march planned to commemorate the first anniversary of the assassination of Nablus Mayor Zafer Al Masri.

The army also banned at short notice a memorial ceremony for Mr. Masri.

In Jericho, Palestinian truck drivers used their lorries to block the road to the theatre along with representatives of foreign consulates and held an impromptu ceremony outside.

In Jerusalem, an Israeli bus was stoned and an Israeli passenger was injured outside the walled Old City, reports said.

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Chadian rebels announce ceasefire; claim U.S. troops on 16th parallel Qadhafi condemns 'foreign troops in Chad'

LONDON (R) — The leader of the Libyan-backed Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT) rebel coalition in Chad announced a three-day ceasefire and said U.S. soldiers had appeared at the 16th parallel which divides the state.

GUNT leader Acheikh Ibn Oumar made the announcement in a televised speech to the Libyan General People's Congress at Sabha Monday, in southern Libya, which was monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

He said the ceasefire was to mark the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the People's Jamahiriya in Libya and to show the GUNT's readiness to seek a peaceful settlement.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi welcomed the ceasefire announcement and called on the N'Djamena government to "get rid of the French and Americans" in order to make peace possible.

Acheikh Ibn Oumar said President Hissene Habre was only able to control southern Chad because of "blatant intervention" by France aided by "American imperialism."

The GUNT leader said Mr. Habre was also backed by Egypt and Zaire.

France, which supports the Habre government, has an estimated 2,400 troops in the southern

the Americans, then there would not be any problem between him and us," Col. Qadhafi said during a speech broadcast on Libyan state television and monitored in London.

"Quite the contrary, Libya would then help him and he could have reconciliation," Col. Qadhafi said.

Libyan troops occupy the northern half of Chad and have been battling government forces south for four years.

Washington has also sent material aid to the government.

"We Chad's forces, cannot recognise or be subjected to any faked government which is established in our country by the power of French, American and other aircraft and armies," the GUNT leader said.

He added that the GUNT was prepared to continue its armed struggle "at any cost and at any distance against France, against America, against the racist regime in the south of the continent and against the Zionist regime and all sorts of reactionary aspects."

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on Monday urged Chad to rid itself of the French and American "presence" in order to make peace with Libya.

"If (Chad President Hissene) Habre gets rid of the French and

at the celebrations. He added in the broadcast speech: "The confrontation is with the French and the American forces ... if tomorrow, the French and the Americans leave, and if it becomes clear to me that there is a government in Chad which is not hostile to Libya, then tomorrow I would invite its president to come here and I would have discussions with him, no problem."

Chad government radio, in reports monitored Monday in the Ivory Coast, said that Chadian government forces repulsed an attack by Libyans in the north western mountains of Chad.

JANA, on a dispatch reporting Col. Qadhafi's speech, said the leader "warned against the danger of indulging in consumerism and the flooding of the market with imported goods."

Libyan consumers have for years suffered from a shortage of such goods as toilet paper, soap and meat.

Col. Qadhafi also declared in his speech, according to JANA: "I confirm that the aim of the revolution is only to make the Libyan people free. I have no vision to impose upon you. I did not launch the revolution to govern you."

Col. Qadhafi took power in a 1969 coup.

"There can be no accord in the presence of imperialist forces at our borders," Col. Qadhafi said

U.S. reportedly asked Carter to cancel Syria trip

NEW YORK (R) — The Reagan administration has asked former President Jimmy Carter to drop plans to visit Syria this month but he has refused, the New York Times reported Tuesday.

"We've explained what our policy is and certainly we tried to encourage him not to go," the newspaper quoted a government official as saying.

The newspaper quoted administration officials as saying Mr. Carter had refused the request and had said he would be going as a private citizen, not as an emissary of the government.

Mr. Carter was not available for comment, the newspaper said.

BEIRUT (AP) — A pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim cleric has received a letter from Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie thanking him for efforts to free hostage negotiator Terry Waite, a leftist newspaper said Tuesday.

As Saif said Sheik Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, a leader of the radical Shi'ite Hezbollah, received Runcie's letter "a few days ago."

There was no immediate reaction to the daily newspaper's report from officials at Runcie's seat, Lambeth Palace.

Hezbollah, or Party of God, is made up of Shi'ite extremists loyal to Iran's revolutionary patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Mr. Waite, Runcie's personal emissary, went missing on Jan. 20 when he left his west Beirut



Carnage at Shatila: Shatila Palestinian refugee camp — or what's left of it — is seen rubble after three months of shelling which destroyed or seriously damaged 95 per cent of the buildings. Four thousand Palestinian refugees still live among the

Israeli generals propose to scrap Lavi

This report has been subjected to Israeli military censorship

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli general staff, under pressure from the United States, has proposed scrapping the controversial Lavi warplane on cost grounds and buying advanced American F-16s instead, defence sources said Tuesday.

They said the recommendation was submitted by the key planning branch of the defence staff to Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy.

Officials said the Defence Ministry remained committed to developing the Lavi, primarily a ground-attack aircraft, equipped with revolutionary avionics, but was studying alternatives suggested by the United States.

Washington and Israel have been engaged in an increasingly bitter dispute over whether the Israelis can afford the prestige aircraft, which has already cost \$1.3 billion largely of American taxpayers' money.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was non-committal about the programme who pressed by U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger to drop it during a visit to Washington last month.

U.S. Deputy Undersecretary of Defence Dov Zakheim said last week that Israel would risk being defeated in another Middle East war if it pursued plans to build the Lavi, Hebrew for lion.

He said completion of the programme would force Israel to sacrifice other weapons systems necessary for victory.

That view is known to be shared by Maj.-Gen. Don Shomron, appointed recently to take over from Geo. Levy next month as chief of staff.

The Pentagon has said each Lavi will cost \$2.1 million, compared with Israel's \$14.5-million estimate.

Israel initially planned to build 300 Lavis but defence sources have said the air force could probably only accommodate between 75 and 150 in its order of battle, thus increasing the unit cost.

Zakheim presented a series of alternatives to Israel in January, including two versions of the F-16 incorporating some of the ground-breaking Israeli cockpit computer systems.

He said the cheapest F-16 alternative would cost \$14.6 million a plane, a figure on which Israeli officials have since cast serious doubt.

U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Middle East Subcommittee, said at the time that the U.S. General Accounting Office report raised "serious financial questions" about the controversial project.

Qadhafi condemns Iranian bombing of Baghdad

LONDON (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has condemned the "war of the cities" between Iraq and Iran and said that although Tripoli backed the Iranian revolution it opposed the shelling of Baghdad.

Col. Qadhafi, in a speech carried live by Libyan television and monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said

U.S. to indict Israeli colonel for role in spy case

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The United States will charge an Israeli air force colonel with espionage for his alleged role in recruiting convicted spy Jonathan Jay Pollard, Israel Radio reported Tuesday.

The report said prosecutors would ask a U.S. grand jury to indict Col. Aviella Sella.

The report by the state-radio's respect Washington correspondent Shimon Schiffer quoted officials in the U.S. Defense Department as saying charges against "three" other Israelis involved in the affair would be filed soon.

Indictments against Col. Sella and the others would violate what Israel has viewed as an unspoken agreement that the United States would not file charges against any Israelis in exchange for Israel's cooperation in the Pollard indictment.

Pollard, a 32-year-old former U.S. civilian navy analyst who pleaded guilty to espionage charges last summer, is due to be sentenced Wednesday and could be sentenced to life imprisonment.

Israel apologized to the United States at the time of Pollard's arrest and said the spy ring was an isolated renegade operation.

But Pollard, in a statement last week to a U.S. district court,

claimed that the "highest echelons" in Israeli government helped coordinate his spy activities.

The expected U.S. action against Col. Sella came amid growing tensions between the United States and Israel over reports that the air force colonel was recently promoted to an undisclosed high-level post in the military.

The daily newspaper Ha'aretz reported an Israeli diplomat was summoned for a "serious discussion" at the State Department last week, when U.S. officials complained that Israel was going back on a promise not to reward Israelis involved in the scandal.

They said Syrian influence with Iranian-backed groups believed to be holding some of the hostages may have increased since a new contingent of Syrian troops was deployed in west Beirut last week.

The administration had no immediate comment on the report.

The newspaper also quoted a Carter associate, Kenneth Stein, as saying Mr. Carter had no firm plans for a stop in Syria when he tours the Middle East later this month.

Mr. Stein said the tour would include Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and Israel and that a possible visit to Damascus had been discussed.

More than 100 Revolutionary Guards were mobilised from

throughout the city to fight off the attack which was launched during the night on Feb. 14, the statement said.

Earlier Mujahideen statements said that on the same date Revolutionary Guards opened fire on hundreds of people in the north western city of Tabriz who were protesting against the Iran-Iraq war, wounding several.

In a statement issued Monday the Mujahideen claimed killing 20 Revolutionary Guards during an attack on a Guards base in Baneh in western Iran.

The Iranian government has not commented on any of the Mujahideen claims, which could not be confirmed independently.

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It added that Abdul Rahim Barati, an important intelligence agent in Mashad, was among the dead.

More than 100 Revolutionary Guards were mobilised from

throughout the city to fight off the attack which was launched during the night on Feb. 14, the statement said.

Earlier Mujahideen statements said that on the same date Revolutionary Guards opened fire on hundreds of people in the north western city of Tabriz who were protesting against the Iran-Iraq war, wounding several.

In a statement issued Monday the Mujahideen claimed killing 20 Revolutionary Guards during an attack on a Guards base in Baneh in western Iran.

The Iranian government has not commented on any of the Mujahideen claims, which could not be confirmed independently.

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Swareddahab visits Amman municipality

AMMAN (Petra) — Former head of the military council in Sudan Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Swareddahab on Tuesday called at the Greater Amman Municipality and met with Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh and members of the municipality council.

Mr. Rawabdeh briefed the Sudanese visitor on the development of the city of Amman and the services offered to its citizens. The mayor also outlined a programme for developing public services from now until the year 2005, in addition to projects being carried out by the municipality's Urban Development Department.

During the visit, Marshal Swareddahab received Amman's shield as a commemorative gift from Mr. Rawabdeh.

Later, both made a tour of a number of sites in Amman, including the Roman Amphitheatre, the Royal Hashemite yard, Queen Noor Park and Al Khansaa community centre, which is run by the General Federation of Jordanian Women.



Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh (left) presents Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Swareddahab with the municipality's shield during his visit to the municipality on Tuesday (Petra photo)

During the tour, Marshal Swareddahab was briefed on the centre's activities and programmes and on urban development projects.

Regent attends lunch for Swareddahab

His Royal Highness Crown

Heavy rain, but no snow, falls in Aqaba

By Ahmad Khrisean
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The port city of Aqaba on Tuesday witnessed a heavy fall of hail and rain accompanied by thunder, but no snow fell there, according to Dr. Ali Abada, the director general of the Meteorology Department.

Dr. Abada said that the heavy rain and hail came as a result of the unstable atmospheric conditions over Aqaba and the south.

Khatib meets Kuwaiti officials for talks on energy cooperation

KUWAIT (Petra) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib on Tuesday held a meeting with Kuwaiti Minister of Oil Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Athbi to discuss Jordanian-Kuwaiti cooperation in petrochemical industries and means of promoting energy resources. The two ministers also discussed bilateral cooperation in oil related fields.

Dr. Khatib earlier met Mr. Mohammad Al Sayed Abdul Muisen Al Rifai, Kuwaiti minister of electricity and water, to discuss cooperation in energy and water affairs.

Dr. Khatib arrived in Kuwait

Spanish-Arab cultural institute announces poetry competition

AMMAN (Petra) — The Spanish-Arab cultural institute which is run by the Spanish Foreign Ministry has announced a poetry competition under the name of the Ibn Zaidoun Ibn Khaifa and Wallada 1987 awards and has invited Arab poets to take part in the event.

A spokesman for the Department

of Culture and Arts in Amman said that poets of different nationalities can take part in the competition which offers three main awards. The poems can be either Spanish or Arabic provided that the poetry submitted to the competition has not been published or translated into other languages.

Radiation labs keep eye on imported foodstuffs

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Barrling foul play, Jordanians need not worry about radioactive contamination resulting from the consumption of imported powder milk or other foods from Europe in the wake of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, according to officials at the Royal Scientific Society's Jordan Radiation Protection Labs (JRPL).

The officials sought to dispel public fears that imported foods may be contaminated following press reports of discoveries of radioactive contamination in imported foods in neighbouring countries.

Mr. Ali Ajlouni, in charge of the Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) division and head of the JRPL, said that the full-scale radiation detection checks of all imported food originating from Europe ceased on Jan. 1, 1987.

He said that JRPL, which became operational last year, now conducts contamination checks on nearly 20 to 30 different food items a day, with the exception of meat.

Mr. Ajlouni said that his staff make only "sporadic field visits" to meat import points in the Kingdom and make random checks on samples of these meats, at least once a week and on selected days.

Mr. Ajlouni's assurances notwithstanding, there was no way to ascertain that contaminated food is not being circulated in the market in between the sporadic checks.

Foul play?

Furthermore, in theory, foul play cannot be ruled out. It has been demonstrated in the past, that exporters were able to export products into a certain country through a third party after faking the certificate of origin.

Mr. Ajlouni told the Jordan Times that foul play, such as the transfer of contaminated European food stuff to Jordan through a third, non-European country, constituted the only means of

landing contaminated food in the Kingdom. "But that would be cheating," he said, adding that such exporters, if caught, would be subject to legal action and would damage their reputation. He said that such action would be a crime against humanity.

"Our focus is on imported powder milk and other concentrated food," Mr. Ajlouni said in an interview. He explained that the cycle starts by the contamination of grass which is grazed upon by cattle, whose milk and meat is consumed by people.

Radiation risks from Caesium 134 and 137 in radioactive material stays for as long as 30 years while Iodine 131 dissipates after a maximum period of two and a half months. Therefore, checks are now made only to detect Caesium in food products.

Quoting figures from a prepared report, Mr. Ajlouni said that nearly 1,400 head of cattle, mostly imported from Romania and Bulgaria, were either destroyed or returned to the sender following detection of radioactivity from the Chernobyl accident. For the same reason, hay and thyme imported from Turkey was buried two metres deep in the Jordanian desert.

As a result of Jordan's strict radiation protection campaign, Mr. Ajlouni said, European exporters have been making sure that their Jordan-bound products are radiation-free.

Contaminated products in the UAE, Egypt

Contaminated food originating in Europe was detected last week in the United Arab Emirates, only after it had been circulated. The contaminated products were withdrawn from the market. In the same week, two cargo ships carrying 33.3 tonnes of contaminated food products were returned by the Egyptian government.

Contaminated West German milk exported to Egypt by private businesses last month caused a public outcry and violent protests in both countries. Radioactive

Haj Hassan reviews agenda for talks on Arab labour

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation grouping representatives of the government, employers and workers in Jordan will take part in the 15th meeting of the Arab labour conference due to open in Baghdad on March 17.

The delegation will be led by Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan who will deliver Jordan's address which will cover violations by the Israeli authorities concerning Arab labourers' rights, the Gulf War and Jordan's stand on these issues.

To prepare for the Baghdad conference, a meeting was held at the Ministry of Labour on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Mr. Haj Hassan. During the meeting, the relationship between the government, employers and workers and labourers in Jordan was discussed. The minister underlined the importance of the subjects on the conference's agenda and the need for representatives of each side to come to agreement on various issues of concern to Jordan on the regional and international levels.

He said that among the subjects to be discussed at the Baghdad conference was a memorandum which the Arab labour office will submit to the 73rd meeting of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) general conference in Geneva to be held in June. The ILO general conference is expected to detail the conditions of Arab labourers living and working under Israeli rule and will discuss Israel's arbitrary measures against Arab workers and businesses.

At the Baghdad conference, efforts will be made to coordinate the stands of Arab governments for the Geneva conference, the minister continued.

The Cabinet, earlier formed

Dr. Utoum said that Jordan is presently employing approximately 100,000 workers of whom 21,000 are non-Arab workers and approximately 9,000 are domestic servants. The majority of workers in the country are Arabs — mainly Egyptians — who constitute nearly 80 per cent of the non-Jordanian workforce.

These figures do not include foreign workers without valid work permits and it has been estimated that the number of those working illegally in the country amounted to an additional 100,000 last year.

The issue of growing local unemployment promoted the Ministry of Labour to introduce a series of increasingly strict measures to regulate the employment of foreign nationals.

During 1986, teams from the ministry conducted random checks at businesses to ensure that foreign workers held the correct and valid papers for the jobs they were doing. This was

followed by checks at border points and the introduction of stiffer penalties for those found violating the labour law.

Employers of domestic servants and other non-Jordanian workers in the country will from now on pay JD 150 in fees for work permits, under the latest regulations issued at the beginning of March 1987.

Other letters and articles said

that the house-maids were steadily draining the economy by sending all their earnings back home

and noted that although many of these girls needed the work to support their families, Jordan was not in a position to support another countries' economy at the expense of those Jordanians without jobs.

The comments also raised the issue of the house-maids who

were poorly treated and kept as 'status symbols' by families who

either did not have a real need for help in the home or who could barely afford their keep.

Those writing in favour of

house-maids said that extra help in the home freed Jordanian women to take up more productive work for the benefit of themselves and their families whilst

providing work and a salary for

someone coming from a poor country and with a family to support.

Labour Ministry takes further steps to regulate foreign workforce

- Ministry recommends replacing 239 non-Jordanians in government offices
- Official calls on women to give up their jobs and devote time to their families

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Ministry of Labour has recommended to Prime Minister Zaid Rifai that the services of 239 non-Jordanian workers employed by 19 ministries and government departments be terminated because Jordanian substitutes have been found to take their place.

The recommendation was coupled with a list of these jobs and the departments which employ them and also included a statement emphasising the need for implementing this step in order to make way for the employment of Jordanians seeking jobs at present. This step was taken as part of the ministry's five-year plan to find employment for Jordanian people who can take the place of non-Jordanians employed in various public and private institutions, the Ministry of Labour's statement said.

In a related development, Dr. Mansour 'Utoum, the director of employment at the Ministry of Labour, on Tuesday issued a call to housewives who employ non-Jordanian domestic servants whose salaries are comparable to their earnings, to give up their jobs and devote their time to their home and children and thereby make way for other women in need of jobs to take their place and support their families.

Dr. 'Utoum said that Jordan is presently employing approximately 100,000 workers of whom 21,000 are non-Arab workers and approximately 9,000 are domestic servants. The majority of workers in the country are Arabs — mainly Egyptians — who constitute nearly 80 per cent of the non-Jordanian workforce.

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otherwise, of employing home helps.

Some writers commented on the social aspects of the issue and said that many mothers had handed over their household and children to maids who often speak poor English and no Arabic. The writers questioned whether either the mothers or the children were benefiting from this situation.

According to Dr. 'Utoum, only

those employed in nursing and agriculture will continue to pay JD 50 for their annual work permits. The new measures were taken by the Ministry of Labour in an effort to rationalise the employment of non-Jordanians and to give Jordanian workers the opportunity to take the place of foreigners wherever this is possible.

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From frying pan into the fire

STATISTICS reveal that since the sixties out of a total 280,000 Jews who left the Soviet Union only 175,000 have reached Israel. Last year out of 914 Soviet emigrants only 202 are reported to have gone to Israel. Even according to immigration officials it is observed that 90 per cent of Soviet Jews seeking emigration would prefer to settle in the U.S. rather than in Israel. This has been a growing issue for the Israeli government for some time and lately the U.S. has been asked to deny entry to Jews who leave the Soviet Union.

The reasons for Soviet emigrants spurning attractive offers to come to the "promised land" are not hard to find. It is in any case not their love for Zionist Israel that prompts most of the Soviet Jews to emigrate from the Soviet Union. Somehow many of them have not been able to put up with the communist system. A good many recognise the need to be well-off economically and socially in a free society with better opportunities for employment. Some also desire to promote basic human rights. But the hopeless socio-economic-political conditions in Israel are hardly attractive for them to realise their inner ethos and aspirations for which they have to seek places elsewhere under the sun.

First, Zionism in Israel is another virulent version of totalitarianism, comparable only to Hitlerism or the modern South African apartheid system. Even in a communist-ruled system the people of a country are accorded equal rights. But built into the Zionist system of Israel is racial discrimination which provides the Jews with one set of civic rules, awarding them many privileges, and the Arabs with another set, treating them as second-class citizens. Why should the Soviet Jews get into a country that is prone to explosion, resulting from such built-in socio-political cleavages?

Second, the Israeli economy which is always in doldrums as it depends constantly on the U.S., is a discouraging factor for any emigre who is concerned with his own future economic prospects. Long periods of inflation, coupled with high military expenditures and corruption have drifted Israel away from a stable economy. Nobody would be keen to board a sinking vessel even if he is assured of finding "terra firma" at the bottom.

Third, the Israeli policy of "robbing Paul's land and making Peter settle on it" is degrading and would be unacceptable to emigrants. Very often the emigrants are given no choice but to settle on Arab lands which are under illegal Israeli occupation. This would get them into conflict situations and endless problems with the genuine owners of the land.

Last but not least, Zionist human rights violations in the West Bank have reached a level of notoriety with which no emigrant would be willing to associate. After having experienced the ill-effects of a communist system, opting to settle in Zionist Israel would be tantamount to falling from the frying pan into the fire. The U.S. would just help precipitating that tragedy if it were to deny entry to emigrant Jews from the Soviet Union.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Thin hopes

OBSERVERS of Israeli politics must have noticed that the leaders of the Likud and Labour, the two blocs which form the present coalition are in agreement on the need for direct talks with the Arabs for a solution of the Middle East question. The leader of the Likud, Yitzhak Shamir, wants the Arabs and the Israelis to sit for direct talks outside the proposed international conference, while the other leader, Shimon Peres wants the international conference as a prelude to direct negotiations. One should not be taken in by Peres's statements about Israel's acceptance of the international conference idea because he wants such a conference to act as a tool for direct negotiations. Both leaders have never mentioned the aim of the talks which, for the Arabs, mean a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied lands in implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. No one of the two leaders has explicitly said that the talks with the Arabs will result in restoring the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland nor did they ever mention the need for establishing justice. What the Labour Party in Israel wants is a first session at the conference during which other parties can be present, and later direct negotiations between the Arabs and the Israelis. Therefore, as long as the Israelis refuse the idea of discussing the return of the land and the rights to their lawful owners, then the talk about an international conference is meaningless. Since the Israelis refuse the idea of implementing Security Council resolutions then there can be no hope for the establishment of peace.

Al Dustour: Educating message

PRINCE Hassan has called for rationalising investments in education and laid emphasis on quality rather than quantity in education during his meeting with educationalists and teachers in Amman on Monday. Prince Hassan said that the Ministry of Education must help the students to become creative and inventive, and that open dialogue should be encouraged and analytical study and research should be stepped up at all schools. He also stressed the need for enhancing the concepts of values and the sense of belonging among the younger generation, and the need for linking education with the community's needs and requirements. Prince Hassan's remarks serve as guidelines for the teachers and educationalists in Jordan who, he said, should help students to contribute to their country's development. Prince Hassan's visit and directives to the educationalists and teachers came at a time when our society is going through a stage of development, requiring deep thinking and sound planning. Prince Hassan realises that nearly half of the society are now students in Jordan or abroad at the elementary, secondary or university level, and for this reason educationalists shoulder a serious responsibility towards the future, through their work and their efforts at present.

Sawt Al Shaab: Time for education reforms

PRINCE Hassan made an inspection tour of schools in the Greater Amman region on Monday and met with educationalists, teachers and students to discuss their work and plans. Later at a meeting with educationalists, Prince Hassan made a general diagnosis of the educational situation in the Kingdom and laid stress on certain questions and points which he said would be instrumental in promoting the educational process in the country. The Prince urged the ministry of education to conduct a self-appraisal of its work and plans and also to introduce measures aimed at enhancing the process of dialogue at schools and at encouraging students to become inventive and creative. The ministry and the educationalists, the Prince said, shoulder a great responsibility in developing the minds and the bodies of the younger generation and in planting the sense of national belonging among the young and promoting their ability to contribute towards the development of their country and society. Prince Hassan emphasised the fact that education and training of the young should serve the needs of development in the country, and that the education process should be continuous and with clear targets.

China's opportunities in the Middle East

By Lillian Craig Harris

RECENT press reports of Israeli sales of military technology to the People's Republic of China (PRC) underscore China's perception of the Middle East as a region of new economic and political opportunity. Elsewhere in the region, Chinese companies compete for contracts to export labourers to Iraq and technicians to Libya; at least 50,000 mainland Chinese now work in the Arab World. And the Chinese military, which finds itself on the bottom financial rung of the "four modernisations," has fed its need for cash by reviving up China's arms-for-export industry. Today the Middle East is China's primary arms market, with sales totalling billions of dollars for items from assault rifles to tanks, patrol boats and aircraft.

Taken together, a series of seemingly marginal events look rather more significant. At least two quasi-official Israeli trade delegations have visited China in the past two years and Chinese officials met secretly in Paris last April with a representative of the Israeli prime minister's office. (The latter's request for a high-level meeting was rejected.) During 1986, the PRC lifted its ban on the use of Israeli passports by visitors, allowed a direct China-Israel telephone link and, according to the Israeli press, established a Hebrew language department at Peking University. No statistics are available on Sino-Israeli trade, much of which is still conducted through third parties, but here, too, there has been considerable expansion.

Although China denounces Israel as a colonialist usurper and

submits diplomatic ties, the Chinese-Israeli commercial relationship has grown steadily over the last decade, although there has been a news blackout by both sides. But for the past two years a less cautious Chinese attitude toward public disclosure has suggested that Sino-Israeli ties are of growing value to the PRC. Less concealment probably also indicates that China considers the Arabs too divided and too preoccupied to raise the hue and cry which has accompanied past revelations of Sino-Israeli contacts.

Today the Middle East is China's primary arms market.

The reason for the relationship are obvious. China has long regarded Israel as a valuable backdoor to Western technology, civilian as well as military. In recent years, the Chinese have benefited through acquisitions of Soviet military hardware captured by the Israelis in three Middle East wars. It is generally agreed, moreover, that the Israelis have provided at least limited Western technical information to the Chinese. There are persistent rumours in the U.S. intelligence community of illegal Israeli transfers of U.S. technology, including to China — an issue of which we have not heard the last.

Last August the influential Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* reported visits to Peking by prominent Israeli arms salesmen and in November *The Washington Post* published a lengthy feature titled "Israel's other arms deal: selling weapons to China." According to the *Post*, "hundreds of Israelis are working in China on officially sanctioned projects" and Israel is "reliably reported" to have supplied China with military equipment including tank cannons and communications systems and to be increasingly involved in scientific, agricultural and commercial — as well as military — exchanges with the People's Republic.

Israel's motivation in seeking to further ties with China is to balance Chinese support for the Arabs and China's persistently anti-Israel stance. China was the first major power to give

the PLO diplomatic recognition and, until Soviet supply began in the late '60s, China was the Palestinian organisation's major arms supplier. Until the mid-1970s China rejected the idea of a political settlement for Palestine and called openly for destruction of Israel. By 1975, however, the PRC had begun to delete "armed" from "struggle" in its statements of support for the Palestinians. Today, although it continues to supply limited amounts of arms to the PLO, China urges the Palestinians toward a negotiated settlement.

Israel was among the first states to recognise China after birth of the PRC in 1949 and for some time Chinese responses were favourable. Since China's "turn to the Arabs" at the 1955 Bandung conference hopes for ties with China have sprung eternal in Israel, which has used an impressive series of envoys including French President Mitterrand and U.S. senator Henry Jackson to plead Israel's cause. Except during the Cultural Revolution era, the Chinese were generally willing to listen. One sign was the lucrative trade in industrial diamonds from South Africa, processed in Israel and transferred to China via Hong Kong, which had grown up by the mid-1970s.

The PRC's new, more public relationship with Israel could be a bellwether for greater Chinese political activism in the Middle East. This could include more forceful Chinese leadership in

international organisations as well as more direct involvement in international efforts to resolve disputes which do not relate directly to China. The importance of the Middle East to superpower relations and China's growing commercial involvement there enhances prospects that China will select the area as a venue for diplomatic ventures.

China has long regarded Israel as a valuable backdoor to Western technology.

Over the years China has come to recognise Israel as a regional bulwark against Soviet advances, and there has been some speculation that China might even be moving toward recognition of Israel in exchange for a role in Middle East peace negotiations. China, however, is a very cautious state and unlikely to recognise Israel officially before a general Middle East peace settlement is reached. To do so would jeopardise China's Third World authority by appearing to compromise the tenet that there can't be peace without justice for the Palestinians.

Interestingly, one key to balancing recent Israeli success with the Chinese lies with the country China considers the region's other major obstacle to Soviet inroads. Just as the Israelis have long wooed the Chinese, so China has courted Saudi Arabia

— the only Arab state with which it still has no diplomatic ties. Peking is also impressed by the Saudis' wealth, prestige among the Arabs, contacts with the West and influence over the Palestinians.

Chinese efforts to impress the Saudis that they are more than "godless communists" have included reinstatement of the *hajj* for Chinese Muslims in 1976, endorsement of Crown Prince Fahd's August 1981 peace plan, and requests that the U.S. (among others) plead the Chinese case with Riyadh. Although the Saudis have consistently refused to yield on the issue of diplomatic ties, they quietly approved Oman's establishment of relations with China in 1982 and have allowed various Saudi officials and businessmen to meet informally with the Chinese. Saudi Arabia has also become one of China's major Arab World trading partners, second only to Jordan.

As the only Third World country with a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council, China's international clout is already considerable and could be greatly enhanced if Peking decides to "go active". Should they wish to do so, the Saudis could accelerate and perhaps turn it to their own advantage. Saudi establishment of diplomatic ties with the PRC would, at the very least, introduce an interesting new dimension into the Sino-Israeli relationship — Middle East International, London.

Soviet Union divided over Gorbachev's more open society

By Mary Ellen Bortin
Reuter

MOSCOW — Moves by Soviet Communist Party Secretary General Gorbachev to make the Soviet Union a more open society are generating increasing domestic nervousness as he completes his second year in power, Soviet and foreign analysts say.

The analysts say recent statements by Gorbachev suggest that lack of enthusiasm within Communist Party ranks for the more critical atmosphere spawned by his reforms may be forcing the 55-year-old leader to temper his opposition within the party.

Western analysts say the extent of party resistance to Gorbachev's reforms is becoming clear through reports filtering out about a central committee plenum last January at which several speakers voiced opposition to his "glasnost" (openness) campaign.

They add that a cultural thaw initiated by Gorbachev over the past year and moves such as last month's mass release of dissidents, while embraced by some Soviet intellectuals and ap-

plauded abroad, are far from unanimously approved at home.

"Many people are saying this is enough," said one independent Soviet observer of internal politics.

"If we held a Western-style election today, it is not certain that Gorbachev would win a majority," he added. "Many workers are not pleased with his reforms, and there is hidden opposition within the party."

Western analysts say the extent of party resistance to Gorbachev's reforms is becoming clear through reports filtering out about a central committee plenum last January at which several speakers voiced opposition to his policies, "one Western analyst said.

"The feeling which emerges from the plenum is that Gorbachev received reluctant backing for the general principles of his policies," one Western analyst said.

The lack of strong support is partly due to a feeling of nervousness among people who fear the effect of greater openness on

their authority. They're not used to being criticised, and they don't like it.

Stalin's terror by author Anatoly Rybakov.

But they say the cultural thaw has drawn many intellectuals to Gorbachev's camp after initially catching them by surprise.

"When Gorbachev came to power in March 1985, many thought of him chiefly as an economic reformer," a Soviet analyst said.

"Things began changing for intellectuals after the party congress last spring, with the staging of some critical plays during the summer, the publication of controversial novels and the growing 'glasnost' campaign in the press."

They cite delays in releasing works such as the Georgian film "Repentance" on the Stalin era, and fierce opposition to novels such as "Children of the Arbat," a still unpublished depiction of

Yevgeny Yevtushenko and Andrei Voznesensky, or the playwright Mikhail Shatov.

Soviet sources say Gorbachev has also received important backing from intellectuals in science and technology who hope his reforms will lead to increased scientific contacts with the West.

Soviet analysts said Gorbachev had effectively headed off a possible revival of the dissident movement of the 1970s by associating leading intellectuals with his reform drive and depriving political dissenters of a prominent figure.

"Today major figures are trying to get involved in the new official policy on culture," one said. "But the dissident movement can be reborn if the liberalisation process stops and current leaders are replaced with more conservative groups."

Burma still battles its insurgents

Burma suffers from an over-abundance of insurgent groups. The Financial Times Rangoon correspondent charts their bloody paths over the recent past.

BURMA's supreme leader retired general Ne Win once quipped that if he were asked to name a country with the biggest collection of diverse insurgent groups, he would certainly name Burma.

The latest government reports say the BCP is in financial trouble because the flow of aid from the Chinese Communist Party has dried up. It has taken up arms and is smuggling in order to supply the money to buy firearms and medical supplies after a decision at the BCP congress held in mid-1986 at Panghsang, the border town where the BCP has set up its own headquarters.

The latest offensive was launched on November 6 with a surprise attack on a military outpost at Hsi Hsi Wan, a mountain hamlet 15 miles south of Kyukok on the Sino-Burme border. The Burmese Communist Party (BCP) fielded some 1,500 men, deploying them in units of about 100 each for simultaneous assaults on eight other government outposts on hilltops in the east — for production and sale of heroin.

The BCP has ignored offers of amnesty proclaimed by the government from time to time, but has held peace talks with the government twice, in 1963 and 1981, without success. On the second occasion it made three demands as a condition for peace:

That it be allowed to continue as a lawful political party in Burma, that its armed forces be allowed to remain intact, and that the border regions under its occupation be treated as its base area. Effectively, it was a demand for a rival BCP government, with its own army and territory, which had completely different stands on some of the questions just debated.

Towards the end of the seventies, the British Labour Party and the Social Democratic Party of West Germany, faced with the growing expenditures of the welfare state in the developed countries, increased unemployment and the formidable challenges of technological development, tacitly opened the doors to a monetarist approach in resolving socio-economic problems. Callaghan in Britain and Schmidt in West Germany now took over power from the conservative neo-liberalistic forces.

Having learned from their own experience and the experience of affiliated parties in Europe and other parts of the world the par-

New accents in the orientation of Socialist International

By Petar Boskovic

THE parties of the Socialist International, the Socialist and Social Democrats, have for several years been engaged in an intensified search for a socio-economic development strategy which would ensure stable socio-economic development, high employment without inflation and an inevitable change in production structure by finding answers to the major challenges facing every modern society due to technological progress. These efforts came to expression at the 17th congress of Socialist International in Lima towards the middle of '86 and in its adopted documents: "Global Challenge" and "Manifesto." These documents as well as the earlier act, "Way out of the Crisis," launched by Socialist International parties in western Europe indicate that views among the ranks of this organisation have changed as regards certain major global problems. This is further indicated by the new draft programme of the Social Democratic Party of West Germany, one of the leading members of Socialist International.

Another reason why the new accents in the orientation of this international association of socialist and social democratic parties are significant is that the members of Socialist International represent the majority of the working class in the OECD countries. Another important thing is that not so long ago these parties and Socialist International itself had completely different stands on some of the questions just debated.

Towards the end of the seventies, the British Labour Party and the Social Democratic Party of West Germany, faced with the growing expenditures of the welfare state in the developed countries, increased unemployment and the formidable challenges of technological development, tacitly opened the doors to a monetarist approach in resolving socio-economic problems. Callaghan in Britain and Schmidt in West Germany now took over power from the conservative neo-liberalistic forces.

Resistance to neoliberalism is also noteworthy from the standpoint of the communist parties,

especially those in power. These parties having for many years ignored fundamental economic laws, are now obliged to rehabilitate certain important segments of real economy, which at a first glance has put them in the paradoxical situation of advocating the concept of the neo-liberalists, although actually they too are seeking answers to the challenges of contemporary socio-economic development and the accelerated technological revolution. The parties of Socialist International are free of such a burden for most of them operate under market economy conditions, so that their opposition to neo-liberalism is all the more noteworthy.

The parties of Socialist International are becoming increasingly aware that there can be no radical socio-economic changes in one country alone in view of the high concentration of financial and industrial capital via multinational corporations and financial establishments. They are therefore forced to enhance mutual cooperation and solidarity, one of the essential guidelines of socialism.

Most of the members of Socialist International are striving for a reform of the world monetary system, convening an international conference of debtors and creditors, for the debtor countries' payment of debts while safeguarding their development and strengthening internal social consumption, for a reform of international economic relations, for stable raw material prices, for the introduction of a system of compensations and preferentials for the developing countries, for more stringent control of the transactions of multinational corporations in the developing countries, for promoting multilateral forms of negotiation and assistance, for the relocation of global demand from the north to the south and for a general readjustment of north-south relations. All these are stands which deserve the fullest attention and support.

The opposition to conservative tendencies on the socio-economic plane, both internal and international and notable orientation towards resolving crucial world problems deserve due attention and support. It is to be hoped they will become prevalent frame of mind in the member countries of Socialist International, for today this is not yet the case.

The range of the strategy for which the parties of Socialist International have opted will be put to the test in practice. However one should not underestimate the possibilities this orientation opens up in transcending the historic split in the workers' movement through cooperation in solving acute world problems — Review of International Affairs, Belgrade.

Motoring's contribution to the swinging sixties alive and well

By Chris Peterson
Reuter

LONDON — The mini is alive and well and reports of the death of British Motoring's contribution to the swinging 60's are premature.

Over 27 years since it first burst onto the motoring scene with its revolutionary transverse engine, box-shaped body and front-wheel drive, the Mini is enjoying a new lease of life, according to its manufacturers.

Graham Day, who took over as Austin Rover's chairman and chief executive in May last year, said last week he had been surprised to learn that there were plans to scrap the Mini this year, which he had stopped. I received literally hundreds of letters. Some people actually ask me where they can find a second-hand Mini. I tell them we are still making them," he said.

There have been many imitators since and sales of the car whose name inspired some of the briefest skirts ever seen in a man being topped the five million.

But despite its cramped interior, odd driving position — once described as like being in a London bus at ground level — and distinctly outdated looks, the demand is still strong enough for Austin Rover to turn out between 500 and 650 vehicles a week at its Longbridge plant in Britain's industrial midlands.

The Mini represents for Britain's Motor industry what Volkswagen's eternal Beetle — over 20 million made in just under 40 years — means to West Germany and Citroen's 2CV, still in production, means to France.

Not that the car, which now retails at around £3,800 (\$5,700), makes much money for Austin Rover.

"Although it is comparatively cheaper than when it first went on sale and we have long since paid off the development costs, there's not a big profit margin on the car," an Austin Rover spokesman said.

"Frankly the real benefit is the image — if we were to stop making it, there would be an outcry," he added.

While the car is now considered a "must" for some women

in Paris, and has become a cult in Japan — home of the inexpensive automobile — the Mini is no longer to fashion.

Its appearance in 1959 coincided with the swinging 60's, the period when London was the centre of a liberated lifestyle and the Mini played a central role.

Astir hippies painted flowers all over it. Youngsters barely out of their teens bolted on wide wheels, a straight-through ex-

haust system, an impossible array of spotlights and pretended they were winning the Monte Carlo Rally.

Various versions appeared, from the basic 850 cc model to the luxury roadster conversion, with leather seats, a walnut dashboard, electric windows and a price tag to match.

Ironically the Mini's biggest failure could have been its biggest success. A jeep-like version cal-

led the Mini-moke, with a canvas top and the bare minimum of equipment, failed to excite the farming community it was aimed at, simply because of its low ground clearance.

But the trendy crowds thronging the king's road in the chic west London area of Chelsea soon snapped it up and there was an outcry when British Leyland, as the company then was, stopped making it. A buyer would be

lucky to find one for £1,500 (\$2,280) these days.

The Mini even attracted the ultimate 1960's tribute — three hot-rodded-up Mini-coopers starred in a film called "The Italian Job," with two human co-stars called Michael Caine and Noel Coward trying hard not to be upstaged.

The 1960's and 70's saw another craze — bow many people could squeeze into a Mini. According to researchers at the Guinness book of records, 33 students from a London school managed to pack themselves into a car designed to hold four adults at the most in 1970.

In later years Austin Rover did not even bother to advertise Britain's best-selling mass produced car — over five million sold in 27 years.

When we did start a limited advertising campaign just before Christmas, sales shot up. Sales in France last year were 6,719, an increase of 15 per cent. In Japan it has become a cult car — "we actually sold 2,280 there last year, a 100 per cent increase on the year before," said the Austin Rover spokesman.

The Mini itself has a confused parentage. Its designer, Alec Issigonis, was working for the British Motor Corporation (BMC), when it first saw the light of day.

But in a series of name changes the Mini's parents were successively British Leyland, BL and now Austin Rover.

One coup didn't last. The Mini, Graham Day recently told BBC radio that the Mini's life would be extended well into 1991.

Asked what had happened to the management team who had recommended its demise, there was the barest pause before he said: "They no longer work for the company."



Egyptian government approves startup of American quest for ancient air

By Mimi Mann
The Associated Press

GIZA, Egypt — American and Egyptian scientists are preparing to probe a 4,600-year-old time tunnel, a sealed underground pit in the shadow of the Great Pyramid of Cheops.

In a season of major scientific missions atop Giza plateau, the new effort is the most venturesome, marshaling technology used on the moon.

Financed mainly by the Washington-based National Geographic Society, the project has received an initial go-ahead from the Egyptian antiquities organization. Organizers plan to begin preliminary work in the spring and return in the fall.

They have two goals:

— To bottle air analysis air trapped when Old Kingdom workmen fitted massive limestone slabs on top of the pit and sealed them with gypsum plaster.

— To insert a tiny camera into the pit and take a peek into the unopened chamber.

After these two steps, the scientists plan to withdraw without unsealing the pit. They want to leave the ancient chamber the same way they found it.

"Nothing from our atmosphere will disturb the moment of time when the pit was sealed," said Egyptian-born American Farouk Al Baz, director of Boston University's centre for remote sensing.

Al Baz, a scientist with the U.S. space programme is coordinating the mission on the American side.

In January, Japanese technicians with ground-scanning radar detected tantalizing signs that artifacts might have survived inside the pit, the only one of Cheops' five so-called boat pits still to be uncovered.

Three neighbouring pits were discovered empty, but, early in 1954, workmen clearing rubble next to Cheops found side-by-side pits 18.5 metres from the pyramid's southern face.

The first pit yielded a dismantled royal ship 43.5 metres long. gingerly laid out, it nevertheless broke into 1,224 pieces and required 10 years for reconstruction. What emerged was a magnificent craft, the largest and best-preserved boat known to have survived from the ancient world. Made of Lebanese cedar, its rope-stitched beams were curved into an imitation of a raft made of bundled papyrus.

Egyptologists debate whether the craft ever sailed on the Nile, whether it might have ferried Cheops' body to final death rites, or whether it was a vehicle for the dead king's continual journey through the afterlife.

In ancient Egypt's sun cult, two boats would have been required for that journey, one to cross the horizon in the daytime, and another to enter and exit the

underworld of the night.

One explanation for the twin pits is that the boat from the first represents the solar journey and that from the still-sealed pit contains a nocturnal vessel, possibly with artifacts to protect the Pharaoh from the perils of the night.

During 30 years of working with earth and planetary geology, Al Baz became convinced the technology he was using for the Apollo-Soyuz mission and the Apollo lunar landings could be adapted to archaeology. Egyptian authorities agreed to let him try.

Two years have already been spent on the project. Al Baz and National Geographic Society experts have constructed a mockup of Giza plateau to rehearse the effort "so that every step will be correct," he said.

Al Baz said the project began in April with surveys of the pit using higher resolution ground-scanning radar than that used by the Japanese, which registered three columns of various materials in the pit. In September or October, the retaining wall just above the pit will be removed, Al Baz said.

Omar Al Arini, Egyptian coordinator on the project, said radar readings must show the best entry point through the limestone and the contours of the pit. "We must avoid hitting any (of its) contents with the drill," he said.

The 41 slabs covering the first pit were sealed by liquid gypsum plaster poured between and around the blocks. The second pit's construction appears similar, but the covering slabs remain covered by desert sand.

To penetrate the pit without disturbing its environment, the team will use a drill similar to one that took core samples on the moon. No water, oil or air will be introduced, and no heat or vibrations will be generated when the drill with a special sealer bores downward, Al Baz said.

Environmental monitoring sensors will record temperature, pressure, humidity and any exchange of air between the rock of the pit and the outside world, he said.

Several samples of air, to be analysed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Boulder, Colorado, will be sucked into specially designed bottles similar to those used in NASA's space shuttle programme.

From the air samples, scientists hope to learn to recreate atmospheric conditions that could be used to preserve other threatened antiquities — such as the boat excavated from the first pit.

After the air samples are taken, Al Baz said, cameras developed by National Geographic will be inserted in the pit for digital photos and television images. "We'll take photos and reseal the pit as if nothing happened," he said.

The Third World baby racket

'Beirut newspapers advertise children for sale'

By Radhakrishna Rao

BANGALORE, India — From Lebanon in the Middle East to Malaysia in South East Asia, trading in innocent babies has become a booming multi-million dollar business. Every day, thousands of infants are bought and sold in various parts of Asia, with a professional expertise more usually associated with a commodity market or a stock exchange.

The broker arrested in Galle confessed that he went round villages, estate areas and maternity wards, scouting for pregnant women. Mothers-to-be who agreed to sell their babies were paid some money in advance, with the balance due when they banded them over after birth. The matron then took care of these infants in safe houses in Colombo. Once legal formalities were completed, foreign fosters parents who had gone to Sri Lanka specially — the overwhelming majority from the United States, Sweden or West Germany — would take the babies away with them.

During 1986, at least 200 babies were also flown out of Sri Lanka by foreign agencies working hand-in-glove with local brokers, according to the Sri Lankan Ministry of Social Welfare. The ministry alleges that over the past few months there have been efforts to send pregnant women abroad for their delivery, to try to evade a government clamp-down.

During the 1970s, more than 10,000 Sri Lankan babies are believed to have been sold abroad. Of these, about 7,000 reportedly went to Sweden. Childless couples in the West are willing to pay as much as \$4,000 a child to the Sri Lankan brokers. Yet out of this, the natural mother may receive as little as \$35, a thermos flask and a piece of cloth.

India is another country from which hundreds of unwanted babies make their way to new homes in the USA or Western Europe. Every day, at least half a dozen newborn children from the slums of Calcutta in the maternity homes of New Delhi are allocated to foster parents abroad. A couple of years ago, there was an outcry in India over the way that an adoption agency based in Atlanta, Georgia, had involved itself in this baby-smuggling scheme.

The agency was said to have employed off-duty airline crews, mainly from U.S. carriers, to escort the children, using their staff discounts. Thus the agents were able to cut their operational costs considerably. A clinic run by a woman who previously worked as a field nurse in the Vietnam war, played a key role in the child-smuggling. She maintained that all the babies that ended up in the clinic had been abandoned by their mothers.

In Malaysia, baby-trading has become a highly sophisticated and at times utterly crooked racket. Well-organized syndicates in the capital Kuala Lumpur and

other towns smuggle babies in from neighbouring Thailand. Most of these children are born to Thai parents or Kampuchean refugees, who are too poor to bring them up themselves. At times these syndicates also sell illegitimate children.

But there have been instances of members of these syndicates cheating some unwary foreign couples by collecting the agreed fee in advance and then disappearing without producing a child. The cheated couples usually do not dare report the matter to the police, as they know this could land them in trouble themselves.

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Under Malaysian law, people caught selling babies can be imprisoned for a period of five years, made to pay a large fine or both. But police say that it is often difficult to prosecute the operators, as the couples who have bought children from them refuse to give evidence as they fear they will subsequently have to give up the babies — Eurasian feature.

Herbalists face lean times with switch to modern medicine

By Fouad Gahwari
Reuter

composed of eight herbs which he claims is very effective as an aphrodisiac.

"The composition is a secret but I can tell you nutmeg powder is one ingredient," a grinning Kanguni said.

Another libido stimulant is ambergris, a waxlike, odiferous substance found in the intestines of the sperm whale and widely used in the manufacture of the best perfumes.

"A fragment of the stuff in a glass of milk before going to bed for two weeks does it," said Kanguni, who has three wives and 12 children.

But not many people can afford it as one gramme costs about \$150 to be added.

Other potions are supposed to be able to erase face wrinkles, rejuvenate the muscles, end headaches and strengthen weak hearts.

Heaping praise on his wares, Kanguni said a mixture of belba (fenugreek) and rashad (garden peppergrass seeds) is used as a tonic for women in childbirth.

Al majnoon'ah (the collection), a blended brew of 12 herbs, is good for gastric and digestive problems. Another potion, called surur al-deek (cock's comb), is used for children's abdominal pain.

Boiled camomile (cumin) and yansoua (aniseed) relieve intestinal trouble.

"These are cures endowed by nature and better than chemical-treated ingredients," Kanguni said, but his shop was empty while a pharmacy nearby was crowded with Bahrainis buying modern medicines.

Scientists explore therapeutic values of body wastes

By Warren E. Leary
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Some chemical wastes of the body, the leftovers of the millions of daily reactions that power the process of life, may have beneficial uses that belie their image as mere garbage, scientists say.

The yellow dye responsible for jaundice, long dismissed as a valueless bodily waste, appears to have a beneficial function that can lessen tissue damage in cancer, aging, inflammation and heart disease, they have said.

Test tube studies indicate the bile pigment called bilirubin, which yellows the skin, is a powerful antagonist of oxygen compounds that play a role in numerous diseases and conditions.

Scientists from the University of California's Berkeley and San Francisco campuses say the results provide further evidence that scientists should look at other "wastes" from the chemical processes in the body to see if they also have other functions.

Previous work from the same scientists suggests that uric acid, another chemical end product, may serve as a protective agent in blood plasma. The tests with bilirubin were designed to test a hypothesis posed by one of the researchers, Dr. Alexander N. Glazier, that some metabolic byproducts may play roles as protective agents.

Humans, animals and other organisms have a complex line of antioxidant defenses to prevent the formation of oxidants and repair tissues damaged by them. It remains to be proven if bilirubin is part of this defense in humans, as indicated in the laboratory work, the researchers said.

When haemoglobin, the oxygen-carrying blood protein, breaks down, it produces a compound called biliverdin. This substance then converts to bilirubin, a yellowish pigment taken up by the liver and excreted into bile.

Jaundice results from bilirubin concentrating in the body, often because of a liver malfunction or hepatitis, and this can lead to brain inflammation and other complications, particularly in infants.

"From its chemical properties, we know that bilirubin has characteristics that haven't been described yet," Roland Stocker, a post doctoral fellow who lead the bilirubin study, said in a telephone interview.

"Jaundice results from bilirubin concentrating in the body, often because of a liver malfunction or hepatitis, and this can lead to brain inflammation and other complications, particularly in infants."

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Jordan, China sign accord to build sports city in Irbid

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and China Tuesday signed an agreement for the construction of the Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid at the cost of JD 7.1 million to be partly covered by a Chinese loan.

The agreement, signed by Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh and China's ambassador to Jordan, Chang Jin, provides for the Jordanian treasury to cover JD 2.4 million of the project's cost, while the rest, JD 4.7 million, will be covered by a loan from the Chinese government.

Jordan will pay back the loan in five years time starting in 1994; half of the loan will be repaid in the form of Jordanian industrial products, according to the terms of the agreement.

Following the signing ceremony, which took place at the Ministry of Public Works, Mr. Hawamdeh said the agreement is in implementation of an understanding reached between the two sides during a visit by the Chinese President Li Xiannian to Jordan in 1984. The agreement is a part of the two countries joint endeavour to promote bilateral cooperation, the minister noted.

The design for the sports city project, which was prepared by Chinese architects has been revised and approved by the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry

of Youth, and the Municipality of Irbid. China will contribute to the construction of the project which is expected to take 30 months to complete, the minister pointed out.

The project will be built on a 100 dunum plot of land, of which the buildings and other installations will take up 25,000 square metres, the minister continued.



Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh (left) and China's ambassador to Jordan, Chang Jin (right), sign agreement Tuesday for construction of Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid (Petra photo)

Rockets hold off challenge by Spurs

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Houston Rockets were clinging to a 100-98 lead when San Antonio's Alvin Robertson whipped a pass to Artis Gilmore. But with Akeem Olajuwon on one side and Robert Reid on the other, the only way Gilmore could get to the ball was to foul.

Reid canned two free throws with 12 seconds remaining and Houston knocked off the Spurs 105-100 for its fifth triumph in as many meetings this season.

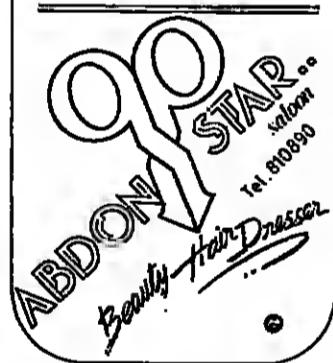
Olajuwon led the way for Houston with 32 points and Reid had 21. For San Antonio, Alvin Robertson scored 26 and Mike Mitchell 20.

Mavericks 135, Suns 112

Deals won at home for the fifth straight time by drubbing Phoenix. The Mavericks are 25-5 at Reunion Arena.

The Mavericks never trailed against Phoenix and led by 33 points late in the third quarter. Meanwhile, Phoenix lost its seventh consecutive game and

SHORTLY...



N. Korea ups demands

TOKYO (AP) — North Korea insisted that eight of the 23 events in the 1988 Olympics should be moved from South Korea to the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

Chin Chung Guk, vice chairman of the North Korean Olympic Committee, told a news conference Tuesday in Pyongyang, however, that the North was not rejecting the International Olympic Committee's proposal to stage two events in the North, Pyongyang's official Korean central news agency reported.

The agency, monitored in Tokyo, said Chin explained that the North agreed to hold table tennis and archery as proposed. But he added that two events are not enough, and that our side should host one-third (of the 23 events) in view of the population proportion in the North and the South.

The IOC also proposed that preliminary soccer matches and a cycling road race could be held in the North.

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch said last month after talks with a North Korean delegation in Lausanne, Switzerland: "I think the offer is a very generous proposal, a historic one."



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RAGHADAN

Tel: 622198

BAND OF THE HAND

Performances 12:15, 3:30, 5:00, 7:45

Edberg beats Curren, thunderstorm to advance in int'l players tourney

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) — As has become his habit, second-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden created very little fanfare on his way to the quarterfinals of the International Players Championships with a 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Kevin Curren.

Edberg, playing the first match of the day on the stadium court, finished off Curren in 93 minutes and was in the locker room before most of the traditionally late-arriving crowd had set foot on the International Tennis Centre grounds.

The fans were the real losers, however, as only one other singles match was completed before thunderstorms forced cancellation of play. In that match, ninth-seeded Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany dominated the final set to beat seventh-seeded Zina Garrison 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 and reach the women's quarterfinals.

Three other singles matches were underway when the rains came, with fourth-seeded Yannick Noah of France leading Johan Kriek 6-3, 5-3 and Slobodan Zivojinovic of Yugoslavia ahead of ninth-seeded Milos.

lav Mecir 6-2, 0-3. In a women's round of 16 contest, sixth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia was ahead 5-7, 7-5, 3-2 over 13th-seeded Lori McNeil.

Also postponed were matches which featured top-seeded Ivan Lendl against 16th-seeded Brad Gilbert and Stephanie Reihe against third-seeded Chris Evert Lloyd.

Edberg had no idea the rain was on the way, but he wasted no time with Curren.

"I don't think I can play any better than that," he said. "Today is the first match of this tournament I've played very well."

Edberg, who has dropped only one set in four matches here, has been playing his best tennis in recent months. He won the Australian Open and the U.S. Indoor before losing to Boris Becker of West Germany in the finals of the Pilot Pen Classic last month.

"I'm more confident than I was a year ago," said Edberg, who dropped behind Becker to no. 3 in the rankings last week. "I'm a little bit quicker. And I'm playing more carefully, not taking as

many chances."

Although he has won the Australian Open twice, Edberg hasn't attracted much attention because he has been in only one other Grand Slam semifinal — at the U.S. Open last year.

"The three majors are the French, Wimbledon and the U.S.

Open and that's where you get the publicity," said the soft-spoken Swede. "If I win there, the publicity will come, but I'm not worried about it."

Kohde-Kilsch has been ranked as high as no. 4 in the world in 1985, but she has slipped to eighth in recent months. Garrison is one of those who slipped past her in the computer list, but the Houston native can't seem to beat Kohde-Kilsch on the court.

Monday's victory was the third straight for Kohde-Kilsch over Garrison.

"Since she changed her game and started coming in more, I beat her," said Kohde-Kilsch. "Before that, she beat me five times in a row. I don't know why it is. She seems to be comfortable coming in and it works against most people."

British court holds Heysel fans pending extradition

LONDON (R) — A British court ordered 26 soccer fans detained pending a decision on their extradition to Belgium after accepting there was evidence of their role in rioting that led to 39 deaths at Brussels' Heysel Stadium in 1985.

Magistrate David Hopkin said Tuesday that there was sufficient evidence that all 26 took part in unlawful acts, either charging, throwing missiles or fighting in a riot before the 1985 European Cup final between Liverpool and Italian champion Juventus.

A final decision on whether the fans should be extradited to face manslaughter charges Belgium rests with Home Secretary (interior minister) Douglas Hurd.

Lawyers for the 26 appealed against the judgement.

Most of those killed in the riot were Italians. Many were crushed under a wall which collapsed as panic-stricken fans tried to flee a charge by Liverpool supporters.

The 26 suspects were identified after painstaking analysis of television film and police videos.

The event took place in front of a huge live television audience which had tuned in for Europe's top soccer encounter.

English clubs were banned indefinitely from European competitions following the riot.

Paris-Peking race heads for Dhaka

ABU DHABI (R) — Seventeen light aircraft buzzed into the hot desert air over the Gulf emirate of Abu Dhabi Tuesday and threaded up across the Arabian Sea towards Dhaka on the second leg of a race to Peking.

The air rally, billed by organizers as the longest race of any kind ever held, covers 35,000 kilometres from Paris to Peking and back.

The leader after the first leg was a Franco-Swiss team led by captain Francois Garcon in a Piper Malibu.

The planes were due to reach Bangladesh from 0600 local time Wednesday after crossing India and Pakistan.

Spain has shot at 3 European cups

LONDON (R) — Real Madrid will lead a concerted Spanish attack on all three major European club soccer trophies Wednesday when it meets Red Star Belgrade in the most evocative Champions' Cup quarter-final.

Indeed, such are the traditions and achievements of Yugoslavia and Spain's greatest clubs, it is something of a mystery they have not met before in a major Champions' Cup tie during the competition's 30-year history.

Spain supplied finalists in all three competitions last season, but succeeded only in one — Madrid's retention of the UEFA Cup — and Real, Real Zaragoza in the Cup Winners' Cup and Barcelona in the UEFA Cup offer Spain another chance to lift all three trophies when the tournaments resume after a three-month break.

Having removed Italian champion Juventus after a passionate encounter in Turin last November, Madrid, six-times winner of

the competition's 30-year history.

Madrid, with its international strike force of Mexican Hugo Sanchez, Argentina's Jorge Valdano, Spain's Emilio Butragueno, if he is fit to play, possesses the firepower to steal a narrow win and justify its place as the favourite for the final in Vienna.

There, the semifinal draw permitting, it is widely hoped it will meet Dynamo Kiev, the Soviet champion, who lost 1-0 to 1986

7

countries interested in World Cup

ZURICH (R) — Seven countries have applied to stage the 1994 World Cup finals, the International Football Federation (FIFA) said. The national associations of Algeria, Benin, Brazil, Chile, Morocco, South Korea and the United States met the Feb. 28 deadline for applications. The next stage is for the seven to confirm or withdraw its applications by April 10 having studied FIFA's conditions for hosting the finals. Final applications will then be submitted by Sept. 30. The decision on who hosts the 1994 finals will be taken by FIFA's executive committee on June 30 next year.

Ireland replaces Wales in Dunhill Cup

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland (AP) — Ireland has replaced Wales among the eight seeded teams in this year's one million dollar Dunhill Cup golf tournament, officials said. The change came as a reward for the Irish team, which ousted highly rated Spain in last year's event. It means Wales, a quarterfinalist a year ago, will go through regional qualifying to make the field for this year's tournament, set for Oct. 1-4 at the old course of St. Andrews. The other seeded teams are England, Scotland, the United States, Japan, Canada, Spain and defending-champion Australia.

UEFA concerned over fan violence

ZURICH, Switzerland (R) — A senior European Football Union (UEFA) official Tuesday urged national associations to take stronger measures to curb spectator violence. UEFA Secretary-General Hans Bergerer was reacting to weekend incidents in Italy, West Germany and the Netherlands, where Den Haag's home tie with Ajax Amsterdam was abandoned at halftime after rioting at the Zuiderpark Stadium. "We are naturally very concerned about them and do hope the national associations and the local security authorities will take the strongest possible measures to crush this expanding soccer hooliganism," he said.

Even at Lake Louise and, to a lesser degree, Sunshine Village near Banff, where natural snow is usually abundant, skiers have had to contend with bare spots and rocks all winter.

Olympic officials regard the warm winter as one more test. They give themselves passing marks.

Canada Olympic Park, the \$45-million development on the outskirts of Calgary, where ski jumping, bobsled and luge will be held, was hit the hardest by the mild winter.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Tuesday.

One sterling	1.4610/20	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3327/37	Canadian dollar
	1.8330/40	West German marks
	2.0695/705	Dutch guilders
	1.5420/30	Swiss francs
	37.94/99	Belgian francs
	6.1000/30	French francs
	1303.5/1304.8	Italian lire
	153.60/70	Japanese yen
	6.4550/600	Swedish crowns
	6.9800/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.9000/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	403.30/403.80	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (AP) — A late rally pushed prices mostly higher on the London stock exchange Tuesday. Trading was thin, brokers said, exaggerating market swings.

The Financial Times closed up 15.2 points, at 1998.3, after being down by as much as 15.4. The narrower F.T. 30-share index was up 9.0 at 1613.5.

The market was hushed early in the day by Wall Street's weakness on Monday, profit-taking on pharmaceutical shares and the Bank of England's offer to lend money to discount houses at above-market rates, brokers said. The Bank of England's move indicated that a cut in British interest rates was not imminent.

But late in the session, some investors came into the market seeking bargains and jumped in thin trading.

Oil shares rose on news that Saudi Arabia is producing less oil than is allowed in its quota.

On the British government bond market, short-dated issues were unchanged and longs up 1/32.

The Financial Times index of 30 industrials closed at 1613.5, up 9.0.

Arab Bank Ltd. profits JD 23.5m, boosts assets

AMMAN (J.T.) — The net profit of Arab Bank Ltd. during 1986 amounted to JD 23.5 million, out of which JD 15.8 million were transferred to various reserve accounts.

According to a report in the Arabic daily Ad Dustour, the bank's board of directors has recommended distributing JD 7.7 million in dividends to shareholders at a rate of JD 3.500 per share which carries a nominal value of JD 10,000 each.

The report noted that Arab Bank Ltd. has increased its assets and deposits to JD 3.2 billion and JD 3.0 billion, respectively, at the end of last year despite the decline in the dollar's value.

The report, while mentioning that 70 per cent of the bank's deposits were in foreign currencies (mostly dollars), said that the assets of the Arab Bank Group increased by 7.2 per cent during 1986 amounting to \$12.7 billion.

Jordan French Insurance Company profits JD 0.8m

AMMAN (J.T.) — The board of directors of the Jordan French Insurance Company (JFIC) has recommended distributing JD 500,000 in dividends to shareholders. The amount represents a rate of 50 per cent of the JD 1,000 par value of each share.

The company, reporting JD 750,600 in net profit during 1986, would transfer JD 25,600 or 25 per cent of its net income to retained earnings.

According to a report in the Arabic daily Ad Dustour the JFIC net profit represents 75.1 per cent of the total capital of the company, which earned JD 5 million from its operations during 1986, an increase of 58.6 per cent over 1985 earnings.

Bank extends JD 0.5m to municipalities and villages

AMMAN (J.T.) — Cities and Villages Development Bank approved loans totalling JD 544,000 during January 1987.

According to a report in the Arabic daily Sawt Al Sha'ah, JD 388,314 were allocated to municipalities to open and asphalt roads (JD 14,000), to pay for land appropriations (JD 102,314), to make road pavements and sidewalks (JD 15,000) and to build schools and other productive projects (JD 257,000).

Allocations to village councils amounted to JD 155,686 of which JD 77,000 were earmarked for roads, JD 53,686 for land appropriations, JD 11,000 for electricity and JD 14,000 for schools.

Drawdowns by municipalities and village councils on the loans during January 1987 amounted to JD 312,281 and JD 136,270 respectively while repayments on medium and long term loans by the two groups amounted to JD 485,394 and JD 94,018.

IMF report shows lowest inflation in industrial countries in 25 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — Prices paid by consumers in the major industrial countries rose an average of only 2.3 per cent last year, the smallest increase of inflation in 25 years, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reports.

In West Germany, prices actually declined for 1986, the IMF said in a report released Sunday. It was the first drop in that country since 1950, which was the first big year of recovery after World War II. Complete annual figures for Japan were not yet available, but the rate of inflation dropped below one per cent yearly in 1986, the report said.

Figures for Italy were incomplete for 1986, but at the end of June, Italy's annual rate was placed at 6.1 per cent, down from 9.2 per cent the year before.

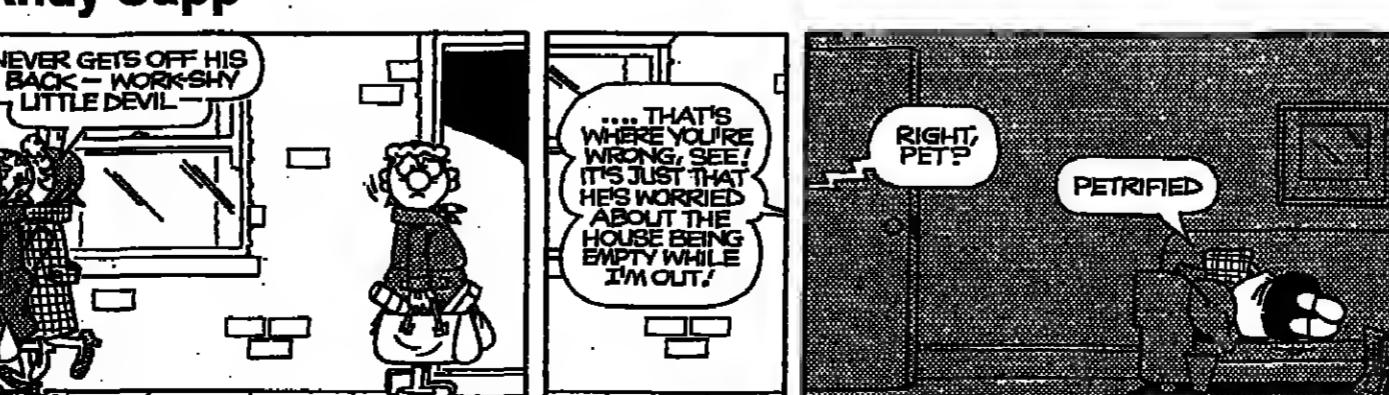
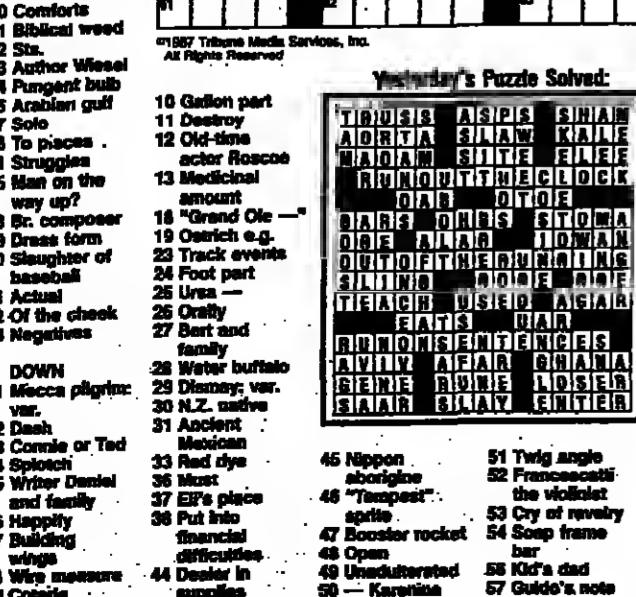
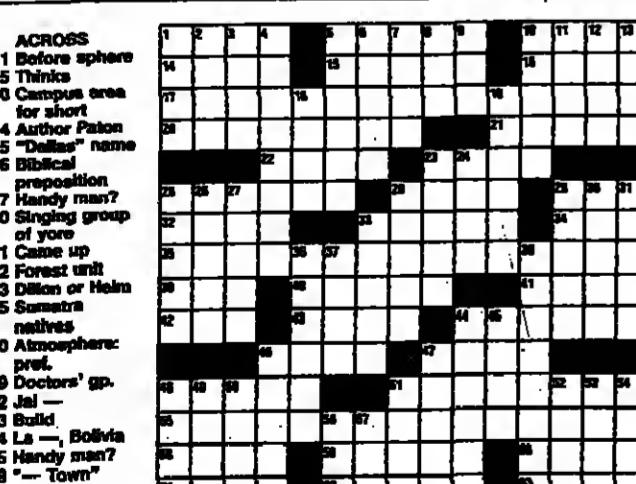
The IMF said the Benelux countries — Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg — posted declines averaging 0.6 per cent in 1986. Belgium had 1.5 per cent, The Netherlands 0.2 per cent and Luxembourg 0.3 per cent.

The U.S. rate was among the lowest: 1.9 per cent, compared with 3.6 per cent in 1985, the report said.

Of the six major non-communist countries, Canada had the highest inflation rate for 1986 — 4.2 per cent, up from four per cent in 1985.

Inflation drops in poor nations

For poor countries as a group, the fund said the rate has been declining, down to an annual rate of 31.1 per cent last October, only a little more than half the 1985 inflation of 60.6 per cent.

Peanuts**Mutt'n' Jeff****Andy Capp****THE Daily Crossword** by Marvin Kenworthy**U.S. backs cutting 'mixed credits'**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government announced on Monday it will back a proposed international accord to cut down the diversion of aid money, originally provided to help poor countries, to subsidise industry in richer countries.

Mr. John Bohn, president of the government's Export-Import Bank (Exim Bank), said the agreement would make it more expensive for the governments of big industrialised countries to divert money in such a manner.

"(The agreement) forces a clear distinction between trade finance on the one hand and truly concessional development aid on the other," Mr. Bohn said in a statement.

The accord applies only to subsidies on industrial goods. Subsidies for the sale of farm products are granted under a different system.

The granting of "mixed cre-

dits" by governments of the rich industrial countries consists of using aid money appropriated at low interest rates to promote the sale of nuclear plants, jet aircraft and other expensive high-technology items. Such credits usually require the borrowing country to spend the money in the lending country and are referred to as "tied aid."

France, Japan, Britain and the United States are among the countries that make most use of mixed credits. Governments of the various nations have spent \$7 to \$10 billion that way over the last five years, according to Mr. Ted Chapman, international

affairs officer at the Export-Import Bank.

Congress has authorised the administration of President Ronald Reagan to set aside \$100 million in a fund for competition with subsidies from other countries. The Reagan administration is asking for another \$200 million.

Congress has also authorised use of money appropriated to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

However, U.S. officials say they are opposed to the practice and would like to see it abolished.

The Exim Bank said the 12 countries of the European Community have already endorsed the proposed accord. They are West Germany, France, Britain, Ireland, Italy, Denmark, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Spain, Portugal and Greece.

Still to be determined is whether Japan will go along with the agreement, as well as nine

other countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

If Japan refuses, the negotiations will have to start over. The governments, 23 in all, have promised their answers by mid-March.

A first phase of the accord would go into effect July 1. After that, no mixed credit would be allowed unless the part of it that is an outright gift — the "grant element" — is at least 30 per cent of the total. Currently, it can be as little as 25 per cent.

A second stage of the accord would go into effect in July 1988. It would raise the minimum grant element to 35 per cent, and would prohibit any subsidised loans to "relatively rich" countries, where average incomes are \$4,000 a year or more. Lending governments would have to charge the interest rates prevailing in their own country on such loans.

Jobless rate in Japan hits new record

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's jobless rate hit a record three per cent in January, the highest level in 34 years, a labour ministry official said Tuesday.

The rate was up from a record high 2.9 per cent in December, and continued its steady climb from past months, the ministry said. The rate was 2.6 per cent in November and October.

Officials said the rate, rising above two per cent levels for the first time since official statistics were first tallied in 1953, had broken a psychological barrier.

Mr. Hajime Tamura, minister of international trade and industry, told a news conference he had been expecting the jobless rate to grow but the most recent rate "will have a serious psychological impact on the people."

Negotiations failed because consumers tried to dictate quotas, not negotiate them," Mr. Jorio Dauster, president of the Brazilian coffee institute, said.

But Mr. Joe Rosenbaum, U.S. assistant trade representative, said: "A majority of producers, led by Brazil, were not prepared to negotiate a new production base on objective criteria."

Since September 1985, when finance ministers from Japan, the United States, West Germany, Britain and France agreed to bring down the strong U.S. currency, the yen has appreciated more than 60 per cent against the dollar.

The high yen has made Japanese exports more expensive in other countries and as a result, Japanese manufacturers have been forced to cut production, labour and profits.

The average jobless rate for 1986 was 2.8 per cent, the highest recorded yearly average, the government announced early this year.

Steel, shipbuilding and coal companies — industries already ailing before the yen's climb — in particular have been forced to lay off large numbers of employees.

Japan's jobless rate was still far below most other industrialised countries.

Coffee prices nosedive

LONDON (R) — Coffee prices tumbled Tuesday after producing and consuming nations failed in talks here to set export quotas to defend prices in an oversupplied world market.

The price of robusta coffee beans for delivery in May plunged £230 (\$360) to £1,270 (\$1,980) a tonne in London trading, its lowest since September 1982.

Later, it recovered a little but a mid-morning price around £1,325 (\$2,065) was still way down on £1,500 (\$2,350) Monday night.

The nosedive followed the overnight failure of talks to set export quotas at the International Coffee Organisation (ICO), a trade body grouping consumers and producers.

Trade sources predicted a price war as exporters try to maximise their share of a falling market and coffee-roasting companies burn bargains.

A price collapse would hurt those developing nations which depend heavily on coffee sales for foreign exchange. For the consumer, lower prices may reach supermarkets this spring.

The largest producer is Brazil, also the Third World's biggest debtor, which last month suspended payments of interest on \$68 billion due to foreign banks in the wake of the oil price slump," the report said.

Brazil and the United States, the largest consumer, blamed each other for the collapse of the talks here on quotas.

"Negotiations failed because consumers tried to dictate quotas, not negotiate them," Mr. Jorio Dauster, president of the Brazilian coffee institute, said.

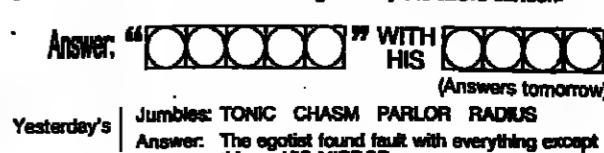
But Mr. Joe Rosenbaum, U.S. assistant trade representative, said: "A majority of producers, led by Brazil, were not prepared to negotiate a new production base on objective criteria."

The London haggling had lasted eight days before hitting deadlock. No further meeting was scheduled.

Export quotas were suspended a year ago when coffee prices soared after a drought slashed Brazil's crop.

The just-failed bid to reintroduce quotas followed a price retreat from an eight-year peak above \$4,000 a tonne in January, 1986.

This time, however, consumers insisted that "objective" criteria such as each seller's average annual exports since 1980 be used in the process of assigning quotas.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris**JUMBLE.** by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: **"WITH HIS"** (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's **Jumble: TONIC CHASM PARLOR RADIUS**

Answer: **The egotist found fault with everything except this — HIS MIRROR**

Police, protesters battle in Seoul

SEOUL (R) — Demonstrators battled police on the streets of Seoul Tuesday, but the massive police presence appeared to have foiled efforts by South Korea's opposition to stage a protest march against alleged widespread government torture.

Thousands of uniformed, helmeted riot police and many more plainclothes men guarded public buildings and stood on alert at crossroads and subway entrances, breaking up the slightest attempt at a gathering.

As groups of demonstrators, many carrying paper South Korean flags, tried to converge on the rally site at a city centre park, they found their way blocked by phalanxes of police.

All attempts to break through the police lines or to distribute leaflets to passers-by were met with volleys of teargas grenades.

At several locations witnesses saw students stone police lines, only to be dispersed by teargas.

Shevardnadze confronts jeering crowd of demonstrators in Australian capital

CANBERRA, Australia (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze confronted a jeering crowd of demonstrators Tuesday in front of parliament and his attempt to talk to them was drowned out by anti-Soviet shouts.

The crowd of Afghans, Jews and East European demonstrators rejected Mr. Shevardnadze's attempt to shake hands. Instead, they turned on loud tape recordings national songs, booted and screamed abuse.

Moments before, Mr. Shevardnadze had alighted from his official limousine in front of the Parliament House steps, where Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden was waiting to escort him inside for talks and lunch.

At that point Mr. Shevardnadze, 59, looked across at the demonstrators and, with security men running to form a cordon around him, headed for the crowd of about 200 who were

witnesses said they saw several dozen arrests.

The Seoul march was planned as part of a nationwide series of demonstrations.

At one p.m. (0500 GMT), the hour the Seoul demonstrators were due to meet at the park, Reuter correspondents in the streets estimated only about 2,000 protesters had attempted to get through police lines.

Soviet authorities said earlier

that they would deploy 30,000 police in the capital with thousands more in reserve.

More than 30 people, including dissident leaders Kim Dae-Jung and Kim Young-Sam, were placed under house arrest to prevent them taking part in the march.

Police rounded up more than 2,200 people overnight, among them students and worker activists but also many criminal suspects, ahead of the planned demonstration, a spokesman said.

Most were later released.

It was the second time in a month that opposition leaders had tried to take their anti-government protests into Seoul's streets.

On Feb. 7, overwhelming police strength crushed attempts to hold a memorial service near Seoul's Myeongdong Cathedral for a student who died under police torture in January.

Tuesday's demonstrations were again intended to commemorate the youth, Park Chong-Chol, and protest at what the opposition calls the government's regular use of torture and brutality against its political foes.

being kept back behind barricades by police with dogs.

With television crews surrounding and jostling him, Mr. Shevardnadze walked up to the barricades and put out his hand.

He spoke in Russian to one group, but his remarks were lost in the shouting. He then shrugged, turned his back and walked back to parliament house, about 50 metres away.

The Soviet Union assured Australia Tuesday that it had no ulterior motives in seeking commercial and diplomatic links with the island nations of the South Pacific, according to a senior Australian official.

Mr. Shevardnadze, gave the assurance at the meeting with Mr. Hayden soon after his arrival for a three-day visit, the official said.

He quoted Mr. Shevardnadze as saying recent Soviet offers of fishing and other commercial deals with financially troubled

island states were not an attempt to penetrate the region.

Mr. Hayden had expressed concern that the Soviet Union's moves might go beyond commercial activities leading to East-West tensions in the region, the official said.

Washington has condemned the Soviet offers as a disguised attempt to gain a strategic foothold in the area, long regarded as a Western preserve.

Mr. Hayden bluntly told Mr. Shevardnadze that Australia was "firmly and unequivocally committed to its alliance with the United States as a fundamental of our national interests," the official said.

The Australian foreign minister also expressed concern over the growing Soviet military presence in Cam Ranh Bay and Da Nang in southern Vietnam, he said without revealing Mr. Shevardnadze's response.

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But recently Pragur has had to rethink its policies as Mr. Gorbachev's wind of change blew through Soviet life. While Mr. Strougal has backed the Moscow line, others such as Mr. Bilak and President Gustav Husak have reacted less enthusiastically.

Mr. Strougal said the new road was also "a struggle to increase the weight and authority of socialism in the world."

Czechoslovakia has followed

The authorities acknowledge Park was tortured but deny the wider charge.

In the absence of the dissident Kims, opposition forces were led Tuesday by the President of the New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP), Lee Min-Woo.

Mr. Lee made a series of attempts to leave his Seoul office, surrounded by supporters, but was blocked by a squad of riot police who used teargas to disperse the politicians.

Buddhist monks joined the protests at various points. In central Seoul, a large force of police blockaded the historic Chogye Temple to prevent monks entering to hold a memorial service for Park.

Tuesday's attempted rally coincided with official celebrations marking the sixth anniversary of President Chun Doo Hwan's inauguration.

The Philiippines' 24 million voters on Feb. 2 gave four-to-one support for the new charter, which gives Mrs. Aquino a six year term and re-establishes congressional democracy.

Asked about the security of her presidency, Mrs. Aquino said congressional elections in May and local polls in August would restore full democracy.

The country's economy was turning around after several years of stagnation and the stock market was bullish, she said.

Police said the gunmen took the colonel's pistol after the shooting and fled in a car they commandeered from another motorist stalled in the traffic jam.

The spokesman described the killer of Col. Casabar, a civil relations officer, as "possibly rebels." He added: "Who else would do this?"

Military intelligence officers say liquidation squads of the Communist New People's Army (NPA) have infiltrated the capital in recent months.

S. Africa frees priest after 8-month detention

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Father Peter Hortop, a Roman Catholic priest detained for eight months under South Africa's state of emergency, has been freed after a world-wide campaign for his release, the church announced Tuesday.

The South African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC) said Fr. Hortop, 56, was released last Friday after Johannesburg Bishop Reginald Ormsmond met Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok.

The Dominican priest was detained in his parish of Springs, east of Johannesburg, shortly after the government imposed a national emergency last June.

Challenged in court to show why Fr. Hortop was detained, the state produced a 20-page document giving reasons based on information provided by a schoolboy.

They could not confirm press reports that the Shan had acquired Soviet-made SAM-7 anti-aircraft missiles.

Khum Sa, the most powerful warlord in the opium-growing Golden Triangle region straddling Burma, Thailand and Laos, has operated from north eastern Burma since being forced out of northern Thailand in 1982.

Burmese troops last month began a campaign against several ethnic rebel minority groups based near the Thai border who have been fighting for autonomy since Burma won independence from Britain in 1948.

Border patrol police said five Karen wounded in fighting Tuesday with Burmese troops were in hospital in Mae Sot in Tak province.

Rangoon has said its forces have armed friendly hill tribes to help them attack rebel groups but have otherwise given only sketchy details.

Jailed Soviet dissident goes on hunger strike

MOSCOW (R) — Veteran Soviet dissident Genrikh Altunyan, serving a seven-year term in a labour camp for anti-state activities, has begun a hunger strike to demand his release, Nobel Peace laureate Andrei Sakharov said.

Dr. Sakharov said Altunyan, 53, had informed relatives he had put no time limit on his fast and would continue it until he was freed.

Altunyan is one of 28 dissenters not among some 150 freed last month, apparently as part of

Mr. Strougal, seen by diplomats as a pragmatist in the Pra-

gue leadership, said: "When we declare today again and absolutely unequivocally our adherence to the policy of the Soviet Union ... there is nothing opportunist in there."

Diplomats said Mr. Strougal seemed to be answering comments by leading hard-line ideologue Vasil Bilak who said last month: "In applying the experiences of fraternal parties we must not proceed in an opportunist manner, but by respecting the conditions in which we live and our own experience."

Czechoslovakia has followed

rigidly orthodox economic and social policies since the "Prague spring" reform movement was soured out by the Warsaw Pact invasion of 1968.

But recently Pragur has had to rethink its policies as Mr. Gorbachev's wind of change blew through Soviet life. While Mr. Strougal has backed the Moscow line, others such as Mr. Bilak and President Gustav Husak have reacted less enthusiastically.

Mr. Strougal said the new road was also "a struggle to increase the weight and authority of socialism in the world."

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rigidly orthodox economic and social policies since the "Prague spring" reform movement was soured out by the Warsaw Pact invasion of 1968.

Apart from Altunyan, we have heard nothing of the fate of any of them," he told reporters at his apartment Monday night.

Scott died peacefully at his home in the luxurious Bel-Air district of Los Angeles after suffering from a weak heart and bouts of pneumonia in recent years, the son-in-law, Sam Tyler, said.

A chance meeting between Scott and multi-millionaire film producer Howard Hughes on a Hollywood golf course led the actor into a film career that spanned 35 years and covered 100 films.

His early films included Island of Lost Souls and Hello, Everybody. He later played a hero in military films — To the Shores of Tripoli and Bomber — and starred in romantic comedies such as Follow the Fleet and My Favorite Wife.

But it was as a Western hero, fast on the draw but short on words, that Scott made his name.

Badman's Territory, made in 1946, was probably Scott's biggest film success and prompted him to devote much of the remainder of his career to Westerns, including 39 big-budget films made in 16 years.

They included Abilene Town, Santa Fe, Hangman's Knot, the Stranger Wore a Gun, the Bounty Hunter and Decision at Sundown.

For four successive years, from 1950 until 1953, Scott was listed among the top box office stars and he made a fortune for his producers and for himself.

Ten years ago, with earnings from his film career and with investments in land, oil wells and gas, Scott was estimated to be worth up to \$100 million.

Born the son of an engineer in Orange County, Virginia, Randolph Crane Scott went to private schools and the University of North Carolina and became a textile manufacturer.

What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
#AS75 #VJ93 #AQJ87
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
? What do you bid now?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
#AQ4 #VJ10632 #QJ6 #AK84
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
? What do you bid now?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
#AK4 #VJ10632 #QJ6 #AK84
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♦ 2 ♠ What do you bid now?

What action do you take?

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GREEN AND OMAR SHAFI
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

#AK10643 #VKQ 06 #AQ2

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

? What do you bid now?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

#VQ165 #Q872 #AQ84

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass

? What do you bid now?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

#AK4 #VJ10632 #QJ6 #AK84

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♦ 2 ♠ What do you bid now?

What action do you take?

Aquino: Democracy ended coup threats

part in ensuring the success of this country."

Mrs. Aquino's optimism mirrored that of her armed forces chief, Gen. Fidel Ramos, who said recently that coup-plotters had lost their chance.

The huge vote of confidence represented by last month's vote for a new constitution may have ended the coup era, Mrs. Aquino is increasingly secure in her post.

Meanwhile gunmen described by the military as possible Communists guerrillas shot dead an army colonel and his driver Tuesday in the middle of a Manila traffic jam.

The mid-morning killings came a day after Gen. Ramos ordered strikes on rebel bases in rural areas to check an "alarming" rise in guerrilla violence in the country.

Policemen said they would investigate all possible angles because the murders might also have involved personal motives.

A military spokesman said Col. Benjamin Casabar and his driver were stopped at a busy intersection in suburban Quezon city when three men approached and shot them.

Policemen said the gunmen took the colonel's pistol after the shooting and fled in a car they commandeered from another motorist stalled in the traffic jam.

The spokesman described the killer of Col. Casabar, a civil relations officer, as "possibly rebels."

"All things considered I think everything is okay in the Philippines and that all will work well."

"I put my trust in the Filipinos because they are determined not only to support this government but also to do their duty."

Military intelligence officers say liquidation squads of the Communist New People's Army (NPA) have infiltrated the capital in recent months.

S. Africa frees priest after 8-month detention

But the SACBC said the priest at no stage faced charges.

A world-wide day of prayer for Fr. Hortop was held last November. "We must thank thousands of people throughout the world who have been praying and sacrificing for him and suffering with him and all our detainees," Bishop Wilfrid Napier, the SACBC president, said.

So-called restriction orders have been placed on Fr. Hortop, barring him from entering schools or attending meetings of the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front (UDF) movement, the episcopal conference said.

The Dominican priest was detained in his parish of Springs, east of Johannesburg, shortly after the government imposed a national emergency last June.

Challenged in court to show why Fr. Hortop was detained, the state produced a 20-page document giving reasons based on information provided by a schoolboy.

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